

Message Text

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73

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NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 DODE-00 SS-20 NSC-10 H-03 DRC-01 /115 W

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FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4063

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AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR IC NATO

SUBJECT: DEFENSE ISSUE IN ANNUAL PARTY POLICY STATEMENTS

1. ALTHOUGH LITTLE OF SIGNIFICANCE EMERGED FROM ANNUAL PARTY POLICY STATEMENTS YESTERDAY IN ALTHING, PARTY LEADERS MADE STATEMENTS CONCERNING DEFENSE ISSUE. STATEMENTS BASICALLY REFLECTED STANDING PARTY POSITIONS.

2. SPEAKING FOR HIS PROGRESSIVE PARTY, PRIMIN JOHANNESSON STATED HE WOULD NOT AT PRESENT MOMENT COMMENT ON IDF ISSUE. HE SAID DEBATE ON DEFENSE MATTERS SHOULD AWAIT FONMIN'S REPORT ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH US WHICH WILL BE PRESENTED TO ALTHING THIS WINTER.

3. INDEPENDENCE PARTY CHAIRMAN GEIG HALLGRIMSSON SAID HE WOULD AGREE WITH OTHERS WHO BELIEVE THERE SHOULD BE REVIEW OF DEFENSE AGREEMENT BUT BELIEVES IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES IDF SHOULD NOT LEAVE ICELAND. SAID IP STRONGLY FAVORED CONTINUATION OF NATO MEMBERSHIP AND SAID, "WE ICELANDERS HAVE TO DECIDE WHETHER WE UNCLASSIFIED

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WANT TO FIND OURSELVES BEHIND THE RUSSIAN FRONT."

4. SOC DEM PARTY CHAIRMAN GISLASON REITERATED SD PROPOSAL THAT ICELAND BECOME "UNARMED SURVEILLANCE STATION" WITH BASE OPERATED BY CIVILIAN TECHNICIANS. SAID ICELAND'S PARTICIPATION IN MATTERS CONCERNING ITS OWN DEFENSE MUST BE INCREASED.

5. MAGNUS KJARTANSSON, SPEAKING FOR PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE, SAID THERE WAS NO QUESTION THAT IDF MUST LEAVE, QUESTION WAS ONLY WHEN AND HOW. SAID MANY PEOPLE ARE PUTTING STRESS ON ICELAND'S OBLIGATIONS TO NATO, BUT NATO HAS NOT CARRIED OUT ITS OBLIGATIONS TO DEFEND ICELAND AGAINST FOREIGN INVASION (REFERRING TO FISHERIES DISPUTE) AND TO SEE THAT NO MILITARY FORCE WAS STATIONED IN ICELAND IN TIME OF PEACE. IRVING

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